



City of Santa Clara

Building Division
1500 Warburton Ave.
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www.santaclaraca.gov

Building Division: 408-615-2440

Email: Building@santaclaraca.gov

Permit Center: 408-615-2420

Email: PermitCenter@santaclaraca.gov

Automated Inspection Scheduling System: 408-615-2400

2016 CALIFORNIA PLUMBING CODE GAS PIPE TESTING

GENERAL INFORMATION AND PG&E REQUIREMENTS

After a gas meter has been disconnected for more than six months, for any reason, PG&E requires a pressure test to assure the safety of the line before they will set a new or re-connect existing meter. This test is performed by the owner or his representative and inspected by the Building Inspection Division. This inspection includes verification of the pressure test and visual inspection of all gas utilization appliances connected to that meter. A plumbing permit is required. The Inspection Division automatically sends authorization for connection to PG&E when the inspection is successful. PG&E will then set the meter. (You must set up an account with PG&E prior to installation of the meter.)

PROCEDURE

1. A rough piping inspection is required prior to concealment of piping, including verification of size, material, and other installation requirements. [CPC 1203.3.1]
2. An air test is required, and must be performed after any portions that are to be covered or concealed are so covered. The test consists of holding a minimum of 10 pounds of pressure for not less than 15 minutes. [CPC 1213.3]
3. The applicant provides a gauge. The gauge must have a needle valve (such as on inner tubes for bicycles, etc.). The gauge must have 1/10th pound increments [CPC 318.2]. The higher end of the gauge shall be no greater than 2 times the test pressure [CPC 318.5]; most gas gauges have a maximum range of 15 psi.
4. A bicycle tire pump can be used to pressurize the line. Do not over pressurize the system past the maximum marking or the gauge could be damaged. Gauges with any sign of damage are not acceptable.
5. For the test, temporarily cap off all outlets (water heater, gas range, etc.) before pressurizing the system. Leakage shall be located with an approved gas detector or noncorrosive leak detection fluid (soap test). [CPC 1213.4.1]
6. Short sections of piping for minor repairs or extensions do not require a pressure test and can be soap-tested in the field [CPC 1213.1.2]. New branches require a pressure test [CPC 1213.1.3]
7. Call for inspection after it is determined there are no leaks. Have the system under the test pressure for the inspection. Call for inspection (Code #308 on the Automated Inspection System) at 408-615-2400. If you have any questions, Plumbing Inspectors are normally in the office between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and can be reached at 408-615-2440.

